

Attachment 3



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AEA

FILE COPY

Ms. Helen Sevier
Chairman and CEO
B.A.S.S., Incorporated
5845 Carmichael Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36117

AUG 17 1999

Dear Ms. Sevier:

The Fish and Wildlife Service commends you and the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council on the development of the *Strategic Plan for the National Outreach and Communications Program* and for the Council's past work under the President's Executive Order 12962. Since its inception in 1993, the Council has become a vital force to represent anglers' and boaters' concerns for aquatic resource conservation.

As evidenced by its work under the Executive Order and through the exhaustive efforts undertaken to develop the Strategic Plan, the Council has proven its ability to engage stakeholders successfully in a process to develop important consensus-based recommendations about a variety of recreational fishing, boating and aquatic resource conservation issues.

The Service is currently developing a strategic plan for the National Fish Hatchery System that will prepare the system to meet its responsibilities more effectively in the coming years. We desire to be inclusive with this effort and ask that you once again undertake to build consensus among natural resource stakeholders to provide recommendations that will assist in the development of the strategic plan. We hope that the Council's ability to coalesce stakeholders to develop visionary approaches to aquatic resource conservation challenges will result in recommendations that frame the National Fish Hatchery System's role in fulfilling not only the Service's aquatic resource conservation obligations, but the system's role in fisheries and aquatic resources conservation in general.

Looking ahead, we would hope the Council's full report containing recommendations to the Service and the Secretary could be completed by August of 2000, with an interim report


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available by March 1, 2000. We request that this consensus-building process be an open, inclusive dialogue that incorporates recent internal and external reviews and evaluations of the hatchery system. We leave it up to you to develop the process that will ultimately result in these recommendations. In addition, we ask that the Council take full advantage of the coordination and integration opportunities provided by the Service work groups recently formed to assemble data and other information about the National Fish Hatchery System.

Please contact us if you wish to discuss this request in more detail. The Service will assist you as the Council moves forward on this issue. We look forward to supporting the Council as it undertakes this important work.

Sincerely,


~~Acting~~ DIRECTOR